

ALASKAN TOKEN COLLECTOR

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& POLAR NUMISMATIST

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See page 41

JOE ANICICH

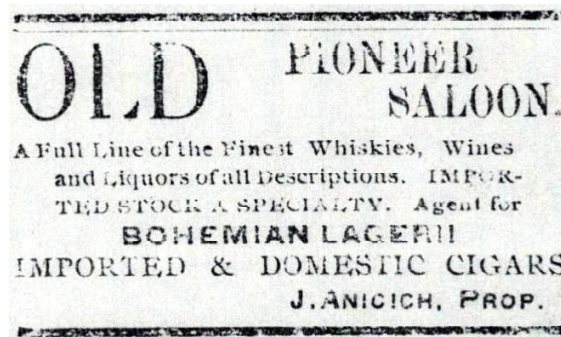
With the addition of the Alaska Forum of Rampart Alaska to the LoC, we can find more information on Joe Anicich. Surprisingly, there is no mention of Baber & Lycan, or the Alaska Mining & Trading Co.! All of the following are from the Alaska Forum, except where noted.



November 8, 1900.

Joe Anicich won the pool of \$15 at the N.A.T.&T. store. His guess on the time the ice stopped running was 3:30 Nov. 3, the exact time was 3:40.

Interesting in that all the other ice pools I have heard of were when the ice goes out, not when the river freezes. I would guess the former is easier to determine.



First ad, October 4, 1900.

June 28, 1902.

Everything is under full swing to make the celebration of the coming Fourth of July one that will go down in the annals of local history, as one of the most complete and successful event ever held on the lower river.

*The committee of arrangements, J.W. Duncan, Lynn Smith and Billy Porter have left no stone unturned that would tend to make things pleasant all around, and **Joe Anicich** and Geo Lane have collected the money towards the purses to be competed for, from our local merchants, who have subscribed most liberally.*

October 4, 1902.

Joe Anicich and Joe Cooper will shortly open the Pioneer near the post office. The Northern restaurant will occupy the premises next door when completed.

June 18, 1904.

Joe Anicich and wife returned from a winter's sojourn in San Francisco on the Sarah. Joe reports things brisk in the states. He brought in a bookkeeper and assistant, Bob Newton, and left for Tanana to straighten out his affairs at that place. He is bringing in a big stock of liquors on the Portland, from San Francisco.

July 9, 1904.

Pres Ireland is conducting The Pioneer during the absence of Joe Anicich at Tanana and Fairbanks.



March 5, 1904

continued on page 37

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

I have been pushing the Joe Anicich article back and back for several months. Other articles seemed more interesting or more important (to me). I guess it is a good thing to have an article in reserve.

J.D. Williams submitted a short article on Stratton's Service coupons. They fit my personal definition of a token: a money substitute. They were good for 5¢, so they were a money substitute. And they are pretty cool.

The Gold Nuggie Dougie article was fun. Surprisingly, information (for articles) on modern items is not easy to get. It is always a pleasure to feature items from people who can still tell the story first hand.

On eBay this month, the Palmer Ron-da-voo Club went unsold several times until the opening bid was lowered. Nelson Hotel from Ketchikan brought a healthy price. And a medal issued for the construction of the DEW Line brought a surprising price!

Several Ah King tokens from Seattle were offered on eBay this month. Ah King owned several canneries in Alaska, was a labor contractor, and had a store in Seattle. His token currently attributed to Juneau is dated 1916, after his death! We have done an article in the past, and thanks to the LoC, may have more on him in an upcoming issue.

The May issue will have the Alaska portion of our April 29 auction.

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PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

Anchorage , Alpine Inn, \$1, B-5c	18.50
Anchorage , D&D Bar, \$1, B-14d	7.00OB
Angoon , Seaside Store, 10¢ FST	48.00
Ft. Yukon , Fort Yukon Hotel, 25¢, B-4a	33.00
Ft. Yukon , FY Hotel, 25¢, B-4a, Lot of 10	83.88
Ketchikan , Nelson Hotel, 25¢, B-34a	220.50
Ketchikan , Northern Bus, 1 bus fare, B-T4bII	10.50
Ketchikan , Herring Cove Transit, B-2a	5.50
Kobuk , Harry Brown, 25¢, B-1a	6.50
Palmer , ARRC, 1¢, B-1a	199.59
Palmer , ARRC, 10¢, B-1c	162.50
Palmer , Ron-da-voo, 12½¢, B-9a	358.53
Skagway , McCreedy & Elliott, 10¢, B-16b	29.99OB
Talkeetna , BN Pool Room, B-1aI	76.55
Tatalina , NCO OM, Support Your Club B-1a	12.50
Tonsina , Jake Nafstad, 12½¢, B-1a	92.00
Wacker , Wacker Trans. Co., Fare, B-T3aI	20.50
Seattle, WA , Ah King 5¢	36.00
Seattle, WA , Ah King 10¢	12.50
Seattle, WA , Ah King, 25¢	11.52



Dew Line medal, 1956

130.31

OB = Opening Bid; NB = No Bid; RL = relist; R = Reserve; RNM = Reserve Not Met; W = withdrawn BIN = Buy it now; BOA = Best Offer Accepted; DNS = Did Not Sell; SUP = sold, unknown price. FTR = see For the Record.

FEEDBACK-ARCHIE FERGUSON

When I first moved to Kotzebue in 1989 and spent a lot of time in the villages, if I wrote a check at the native store, the check would be given to another patron as change and then it was passed down again and again as payment for various things. By the time I did get the canceled check back, and sometimes never did, it would have any where between 20-30 signature endorsements on the back. I wish I had saved them.

Janet Richardson

Ed. Note - Still a coin and currency shortage in the villages as late as the 90s.

ANICICH, CONT.

December 24, 1904.

Finest Building at Tanana

Joe Anicich returned to Tanana the early part of the week. Joe has just completed the finest building in Tanana. It is 25 feet by 50 feet and divided into a saloon and billiard room. It is a log building with a 12 foot ceiling. A large cellar will furnish warm storage for 100 barrels of beer. On Anicich's trip to Tanana last fall, the log-raft, on which he carried his outfit, broke in two by a heavy swell raised by the steamer Rock Island. This cost him a loss of over \$500. Besides losing a quantity of supplies and building materials, the wire for the telephone system for Tanana went overboard. There were three miles of wire in the coils lost.

One must keep in mind that \$500 in 1904 was represented by twenty-five \$20 gold pieces (about 25 ounces of gold!).

July 1, 1905.

Joe Anicich is closing the Pioneer saloon for the summer. His interests at Tanana demand his entire time and attention. In order to dispose of some surplus stock the Pioneer is quoting low prices on bottled whiskies.

OLD PIONEER

Carries a Full and Complete
assortment of the Finest - -
Brands of Imported and Do-
mestic WINES

...LIQUORS and CIGARS

RAMPART JOE ANICICH
TANANA Proprietor

The last ad for the Old Pioneer in Rampart appeared on July 1, 1905.

Alaska Citizen, Fairbanks, Dec. 16, 1912.

Friday morning James O'Brien, Joe Anicich and Peter Coulombe left Fairbanks for their homes at

the lower river town. Two dog teams form part of the expedition and they aim to establish record time in making the return trip, not that they are tired of the hospitality extended them by Fairbanks' hosts., but business demands take precedent.

THE TOWER HOUSE

*Hotel
and
Bar*

Tanana, Alaska

*Good, Clean Rooms at from
\$1.00 to \$3.00 per day*

*Fine Dog and Horse Stables for
the Winter Travel*

JOE ANICICH, - Proprietor

Alaska Citizen, Oct. 12, 1914

Mr. Anicich, who owns the Tower block, was granted his final citizenship papers while here and is now a staunch supporter of Uncle Sam.

continued on page 38

ANICICH, CONT.

Weekly Alaska Citizen, Fairbanks, June 10, 1918. TANANA MAN IS CONVICTED FOR SELLING BOOZE.

It is reported that Joe Anicich, a well known oldtime saloon man of Tanana, and commonly known as "Austrian Joe," has been arrested at the Yukon river town for selling liquor to a soldier. It is understood that the trial was held last Saturday and that the saloon man had been convicted.

After his trial a raid was conducted on his place of business by the deputy marshal stationed at that place, upon authority furnished by E. Coke Hill, assistant prosecuting attorney. In this raid there was 16 gallons of whiskey discovered on the premises of Mr. Anicich. This liquor was confiscated by the deputy marshal.

Mr. Anicich was again placed under arrest by the authorities on the charge of having alcoholic liquor in his possession. His trial on this charge was to take place Monday. It is said that a close investigation is being conducted by the authorities at Tanana in connection with the illicit selling of liquor.

Alaska went dry on January 1, 1918. Joe must have stocked up before the law went into effect. Call me a cynic, but did he not share his inventory with the local constabulary?

Daily Alaska Empire, Juneau, Mar. 12, 1927. Tanana Derby Run Next Week

Tanana, March 12 - Joseph Anicich, President of the Tanana Kennel Club announces the annual Tanana Dog Derby will be run on March 17 over a 20 mile course from Mission five miles above Tanana, down the Yukon River around Long Island and ending here.

Six teams have entered with both white and Indian drivers.

A ladies race on a 10-mile course has been announced for the same date.

Now if the LoC would get some of the Tanana newspapers on their website, we might be able to get a fuller picture of Joe Anicich.

OPHIR CIGAR STORE



Kusko Times, June 23, 1928.

SAM HOUNAM, POPULAR OLD-TIMER, PASSES AWAY AT ROCHESTER, MINN. MAY 30.

OPHIR, June 23, -- Sam Hounam, well known oldtimer, associate of Peter Carlson in the firm of Carlson & Hounam, of this place, passed away at Rochester, Minn., on May 30, according to word recently received by Mr. Carlson. Mr. Hounam was for many years a resident of this section, a man of high integrity, one of most likeable disposition, and his passing is a matter of universal regret. He was a Pioneer, Igloo 11.

*Sam Hounam was born in Scotland in 1868, and in the year 1889 went to Blair, Ont., at which place a brother and married sister still live. In 1890 he came to Victoria, B.C. where he became engaged in fur sealing up to 1898, as was Peter Carlson. In the latter year Messers. Carlson and Hounam formed a partnership and went to the Yukon Territory. In the fall of 1903 the two partners went to Fairbanks, and in the spring of 1908 they came to Ophir. Up to that time the two followed prospecting and hunting. In 1910, the **Ophir Cigar Store** was started, and in the fall of 1920 they bought out the Dave Edwards grocery store.*

Mr. Hounam took sick last fall. Miss Virginia Howard, well known local nurse, did everything possible for him...About April 1 a turn for the worse came, and again Miss Howard did everything possible for him. Mr. Carlson and other friends then insisted that he go Outside to get the best medical advice. "He didn't like to go," said Mr. Carlson. "He said that if he had to die he wanted to do so in Ophir, but we thought if he could get Outside he might have a chance."

"It is now thirty years since we became partners," said Mr. Carlson. "To me he was more like a brother than a partner. In passing, I wish to say I can never thank Virginia Howard sufficiently for all the time she spent and for all that she did for my old partner."

PITKAS POINT



Dictionary of Alaska Place Names by Orth states: "Eskimo village reported by USC&GS in 1898. Named for a trader "named Pitka whose store was a branch of the Northern Commercial Company's station at Andreafski."

Pitka or Pitka's Point tokens do not carry a business or personal name. The LoC provides a couple possible issuers, in addition to the Pitka mentioned above.

Nome Daily Nugget, July 8, 1935.

After the vessel (ed. note: coastwise schooner "Trader") is re-outfitted, which will be within a week, it is scheduled to sail for Nunivak Island, and Yukon River points, calling at Pitkas Point where "Doc" Preston, well known Arctic trader now has a station...

Nome Daily Nugget, October 8, 1937.

"Doc" Preston, formerly of Nome who now operates a trading post at Pitkas Point on the lower Yukon, has just laid in a \$17,000 stock of trading goods. His past winter and summer trading was unusually good, it was reported.

Nome Nugget, August, 1945.

Petur Jens Palsson has filed application Serial Number 0976 in the District Land Office for a Trading Headquarters of five acres at Pitkas Point at the mouth of the Andreafsky River.

Nome Nugget, October 7, 1946.

Trading post at Pitka Point Destroyed by Fire

Word has been received from Pitka Point of a fire which is supposed to have totally destroyed the trading post of Pete Paulson.

Pete Paulson, operator of the trading post and owner and captain of the M.S. Trader is reported to have been in the building at the time of the fire.

Nome Nugget, November 22, 1946.

Capt. Palsson Died in Fire in October.

Seattle, (AP) - Friends have today learned of the death of Capt. Peter J. Palsson in a fire which destroyed

his trading post in the Yukon river Eskimo village of Pitkas Point, October 4.

Born 55 years ago in Iceland, he went to the Alaska from here in 1914 with Capt. S.K. Gudmundson.

They visited Siberia in the Polar Bear, formerly used by the noted Arctic explorer Vilhjalmur Steffanson, and were imprisoned during the Russian revolution of 1918 after their ship was lost in the ice and its cargo confiscated. Both finally managed to escape.

Captain Palsson later operated a trading boat from Nome to Point Barrow. He bought the Pitkas Point Trading post two years ago.

So Preston or Palsson could have been the issuer of these tokens.

Here is another interesting Pitkas Point article. Below is only an excerpt, and we recommend looking it up on the LoC and reading the complete article.

Tundra Times, Fairbanks, August 5, 1963.

Native Buys, Operates Cannery; Save 65 Jobs in Lower Yukon

In a dramatic demonstration of economic development, a young Native man bought and successfully operated this summer a cannery at Pitka's Point in the Lower Yukon.

Randy Kalkins, a Native of Southeast Alaska and formerly a Fairbanks city policeman, bought the cannery the first of June and by the first week of July had packed 5,000 cases of red salmon expected to gross \$50,000 on the market.

Dramatically, Kalkins saved the jobs of about 65 Native fisherman and cannery workers in the economically distressed area. His total payroll of \$30,000 will contribute to the support of about 300 Natives.

Randy Kalkins, only 27, with cannery experience, the ability to negotiate a language difference with Eskimos, and the drive to put in 20 hour days during the fish run, is a typical example of what a young, aggressive and intelligent native man can accomplish if given only half a chance.

STRATTON'S STATIONS 5 CENT COUPONS

by J.D. Williams

In the 1950s and 1960s, R.W. "Bob" Stratton owned a group of Union 76 service stations in Anchorage, and also owned the Union Oil wholesale distributor in Valdez. Pictured are five cent premium coupons that were issued for 2½ gallons of gas purchased. The coupons could be accumulated and later redeemed at Stratton's service stations. The five cent coupons measure 50mm by 75mm and were printed on pale pink watermarked paper.



In addition to running the service stations, Bob Stratton served as a Representative in the House in the Second Alaska State Legislature. The March 14, 1962 issue of the Anchorage Daily News reported that Stratton was one of the authors of a measure that "proposes a land scrip plan whereby Alaskans would be given scrip dollars for use in the purchase of land for every dollar paid in certain taxes to the state." In those days Alaska had a state income tax based on a percentage of the federal income tax. Stratton said "such a plan would tend to increase the tax rolls of the state while encouraging settlement and development of the land." Although nothing came of the measure, collectors would have had an interesting scrip item to collect had it been successful.



Stratton was also active in educational, civic and business organization. In 1962 Stratton, a Republican, attempted to advance to the State Senate but lost to Democrat Nick Begich who served eight years in the State Senate before running for Congress.

Later in life he made his home in Glennallen, and died in 2010 at the age of 94 at Providence Valdez Medical Center.

References:

Anchorage Daily News, March 14, 1962 and February 2, 2010.

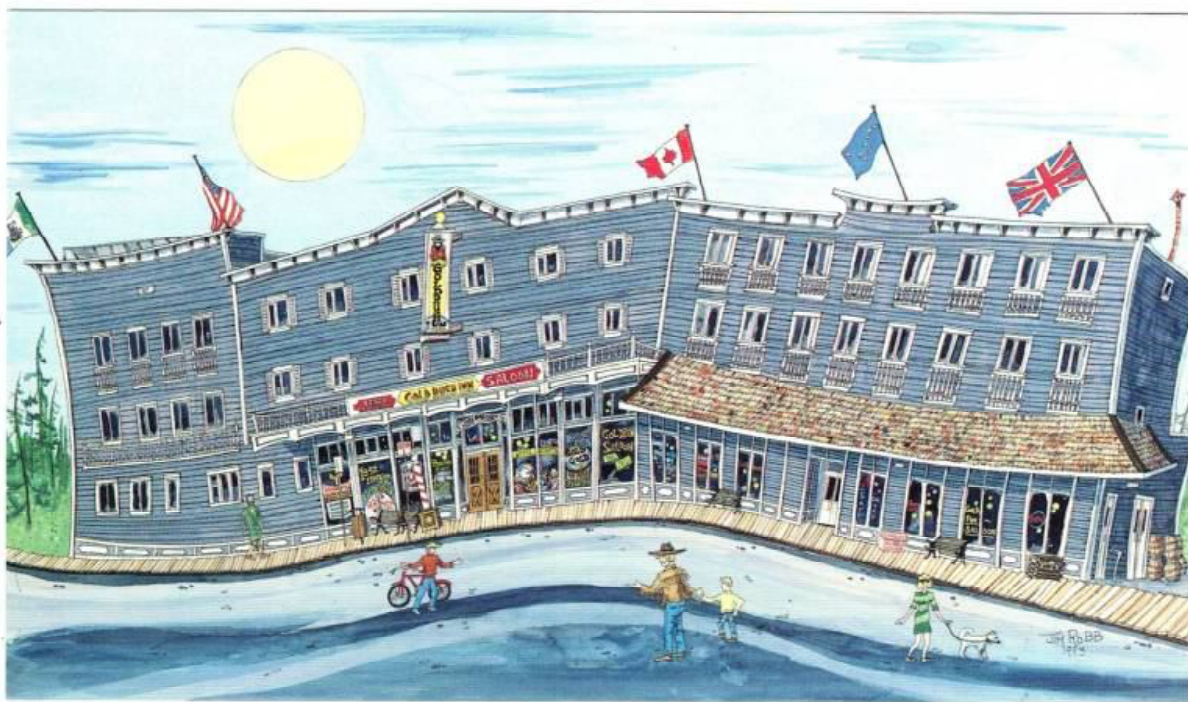
100 Years of Alaska's Legislature "From Territorial Days to Today", 29th State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, 2015-2016.

City of Anchorage October 1958 Telephone Directory.

* * * * *
Anchorage Daily Times & Cook Inlet Pioneer, August 15, 1916.

John Neuru sold to Chas. Janich the west one-half of lot 2 in block 45. Mr. Janich will begin erection of a frame building 25 by 100 feet. (Anchorage B-32a).

GOLD NUGGIE DOUGIE



GOLD RUSH INN
Whitehorse, Yukon

painting by Jim Robb

Douglas R. Thomas (aka Gold Nuggie Dougie) purchased the Ben Elle in Whitehorse, a 40 room motel on October 1, 1978. It was renamed the Gold Rush Inn. In 1988 he built a large addition, adding lobby, Gold Pan Saloon, meeting rooms, a large banquet room and 40 more rooms. In 1997 he added a fourth floor to bringing the hotel to 110 rooms.

People ask Doug how long he's been in the Yukon. Doug laughs and says "Three wives." Bev started working at the Gold Rush Inn in January 1992. Doug says she worked her way to the top.

He gave the people what they wanted - a Klondike Hotel filled with Klondike antiques and artifacts. Doug was one of the last people to take gold in exchange for rooms, food and the lounge. There were room specials, miners rates as well as a Yukoner rate.

The Gold Rush Inn provided the venue for several numismatic collectibles until he sold the Inn in 2006.

As indicated in the artwork above, Gold Nuggie Dougie is acquainted with Jim Robb, Yukon artist. We trust that the Gold Rush Inn was on level ground and that was artistic liberty on Jim's part ;)

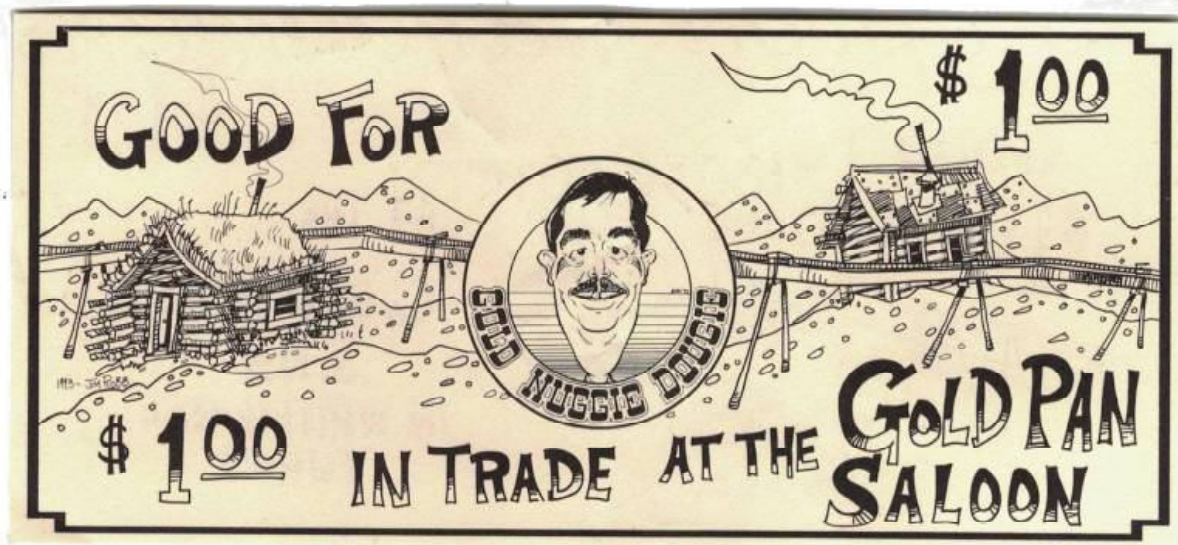


Jim put Doug in touch with Steve Sheppard, who designed the "Gold Nuggie Dougie" medals. The medals are signed "Shep '93." These were struck in silver, bronze and aluminum by the Alaska Mint in Anchorage. The aluminum medals could be redeemed for a free beer or a shot of whiskey in the Gold Pan Saloon, making it a trade token.

The silver and bronze medals were sold in gold nugget and jewelry shop in the lobby of the Gold Rush Inn. Some of the silver medals had a small gold nugget glued in the gold panner's pan, as shown above. Subsequent issues were struck in brass.

Jim Robb used the designs from the medals to develop the paper \$1.00 trade dollars good at the Gold Rush Inn and Gold Pan Saloon. They are printed in black on cream paper (see the next page).

GOLD NUGGIE DOUGIE, CONT.



A 25% off card on gold nugget jewelry was also used. It is gold and blue on white card stock. (Shown reduced, actual size 159mm by 109mm).

Harkening back to when the first wooden nickels were thin, flat pieces of wood, Doug had a branding iron



GOLD NUGGIE DOUGIE, CONT.

made, and produced woods with the brand on one side and sticker on the other. (Shown reduced, actual size 89mm by 50mm).



Another wooden token is 44mm and laser etched. These were made by Lance Burton of Yukon Apparel in Whitehorse.

Lake was subjected to devastating floods. Doug and Bev escaped major damage, but helped their neighbors with sand bags. Things are looking like there will be flooding again this year.

After selling the Inn in 2006, Doug and Bev retired to Marsh Lake, south of Whitehorse. In his spare time (isn't it all spare time when you are retired?), Doug makes rustic frames and bird houses. The "Gold Nuggie Dougie" medals are incorporated into some of the frames. Jim Robb says that Doug's frames are perfect for his artwork.



Doug and Bev spoke (in appropriate garb, June 14, 2017) at Inn on the Lake (their neighbors) to a group brought in by Edible Canada. They spoke on the Alaska Highway and the Klondike Gold Rush.

This past spring and summer, the area around Marsh



Gold Bottom Roadhouse on Hunker Creek, 10 miles from Dawson. It is the last standing roadhouse in the Yukon. It operates as a tourist attraction with gold panning. The roadhouse is still used for staffing. It is owned by Dave Miller. Art work by Jim Robb, frame by Doug Thomas.

FOR THE RECORD



ANCHORAGE: American Legion, Muldoon Post 29. Good for one drink. 34mm, aluminum. Previously reported in brass, and red, green and blue aluminum. (submitted by J.D. Williams).

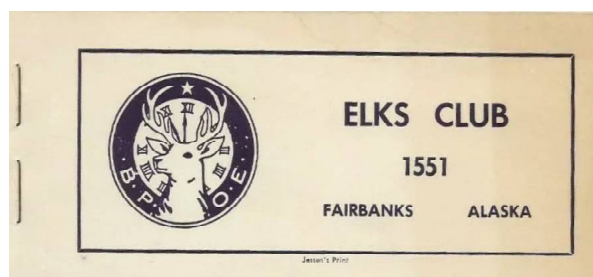


ANGOON: Seaside Store, Food Stamp token set of 5: 1¢ black, 5¢ green, 10¢ blue, 25¢ red and 50¢ pink. Listed, not illustrated. (submitted by J.D. Williams).



ALASKA: Nabors Alaska Drilling. 39mm, metal unknown. Not silver, probably cupronickel or aluminum, edge marked AlaskaMint.com. (submitted by J.D. Williams).

FAIRBANKS ELKS CLUB DRINK COUPON BOOK



FAIRBANKS: Elks Club 1551, 140mm by 64mm, shown at a reduced size. You have to love the sense of humor! The tape is old, so this probably is from the 50s or 60s. (submitted by J.D. Williams).

MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS



NORTH WIND: Apparently a military exercise of units from Alaska, Oregon and Hakodate, Japan. Bronze, approximately 50mm. (submitted by J.D. Williams).



FT. RICHARDSON: 207th Infantry Brigade, Presented by the Command CSM, America's Arctic Warriors. Yellow, blue, and green on brass (?), about 39mm. (submitted by J.D. Williams).